

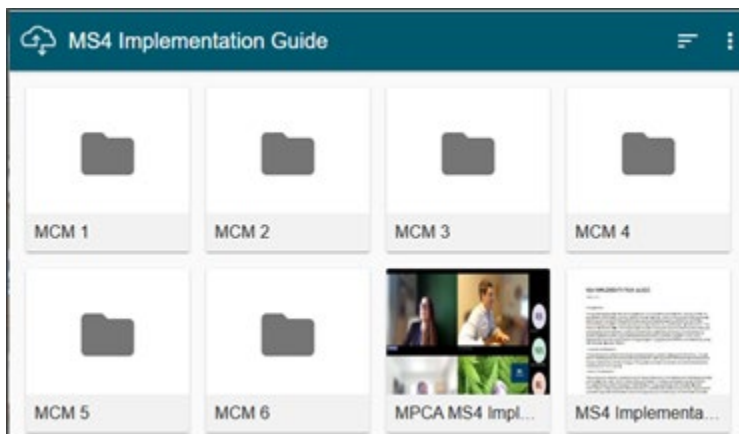
MN Stormwater Manual News

In this issue:

- New resources for MS4 permittees!
- **Update on the new MN Stormwater Manual website!**
- Coming this fall to the stormwater manual

NEW: MS4 Implementation Guide now available through the stormwater manual!

In August 2024, MPCA staff, along with their contractor RESPEC, initiated a project to develop a comprehensive resource package to guide MS4 permittees through the process of developing, implementing, enforcing, and assessing programs described under Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) 1 through 6. The guidance package includes ready-to-use or easily adaptable documents and action guides along with administrative resources like tracking sheets, model ordinance language, and a video introduction to the package.



You can find the guidance package by visiting the [MS4 home page](#) in the MN Stormwater Manual. The guidance package is currently housed in ShareBase but will be directly downloadable from the manual in the future.

UPDATE: New MN Stormwater Manual website to go live in October!

They say nothing lasts forever, and so it is with our beloved stormwater wiki. The stormwater manual wiki site will be decommissioned sometime in October. When this happens, the current URL for the manual (<http://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/>) will be reassigned to the new stormwater manual website. In effect, the wiki will be swapped in place with a new website.

The exact date for the switch has not been set, but little or no interruption in service is expected when the switch occurs. MPCA will provide updates on the wiki home page as possible as the switch date approaches.

Change can be hard and still worth the effort

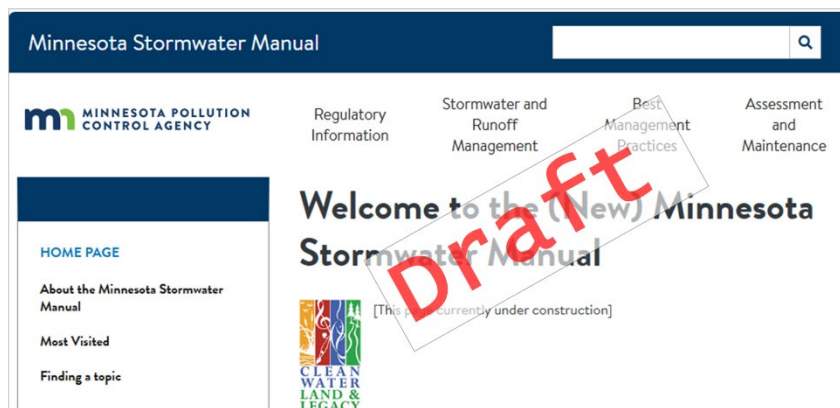
When the switch occurs, stormwater manual content will no longer be available in the wiki format. But with change comes opportunity. The new platform offer opportunity for improved accessibility and consistency with other MPCA websites.

Why is MPCA making this switch?

The wiki platform is an aging technology which has served us well, but which also has limitations impacting the site security and accessibility. In 2024, MPCA decided to move the stormwater manual to a more stable platform to mitigate the risk of losing manual content and to facilitate improved sight accessibility.

Work in progress on the new manual

Late in 2024, MPCA's IT service completed the task of copying the stormwater manual database to the new website platform and since early 2025, a small crew at MPCA has been working to organize and review that content which includes over 1600 individual pages, over 2,000 image files, over 1,000 documents, and several times as many hyperlinks.



Given the enormity of the task and the limited time available to accomplish the transition, our work has been focused on content that is most frequently accessed by manual users. Our initial goals have been:

1. To provide a functional, navigable website
2. To clean up 'translation errors' (broken links, formatting glitches) that are the unavoidable result of moving content between different coding environments – especially for frequently used pages.

This work will continue after the new website goes live as will additional efforts to streamline content and improve accessibility.

Watch for training opportunities!

MPCA staff will be scheduling several webinars throughout October and November to provide orientation to the new manual and to the new content and resources that were developed for the manual over the past year. New content and resources are described in the items that follow.

Coming this fall to the MN Stormwater Manual

Over the past year, MPCA has completed several work orders with our contractors to develop new and revised content that will be featured in the new stormwater manual this fall. Content this is coming to the manual this fall is listed below. *Additional details will be featured in future editions of the Stormwater Manual News.*

- Low Salt Design guidance – new guidance on concepts and practices that help reduce the need for winter salting starting at the project design stage.
- Updates to guidance on Green Infrastructure (GI)/Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) including:
 - *Envisioning Green Infrastructure in Your Community* - a colorful booklet featuring real examples for a variety of GI and GSI practices in communities across the state with information intended primarily for audiences new to GI/GSI tools and practices.
 - New case studies on implementation of GI/GSI for the stormwater manual.
 - New and revised design details for GI/GSI practices.
- Guidance on appropriate use of synthetic turf in stormwater management systems.

What's next?

In addition to continued work on the new manual website, here's a short list showing (some of) the manual updates slated for 2026-2027:

- Simple Estimator version 4.0 (in progress)
- Soil health and soil management (in progress)
- Management of solids collected from stormwater practices (in progress)
- Stormwater models and modeling (in development)
- Precipitation frequency estimates & future climate (pending the release of Atlas 15)
- Stormwater and rainwater harvest and use/reuse (in development)